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Commission on Narcotic Drugs
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Agenda item 5
Implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem: follow-up to the high-level review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in view of the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016

Australia, Belarus, Brazil, Canada, Dominican Republic, Japan, New Zealand, Tajikistan, United Kingdom and United States of America: draft resolution

Promotion of measures to target new psychoactive substances and amphetamine-type stimulants

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Deeply concerned about the combination of the diversity and the speed with which new psychoactive substances emerge and spread, which often requires swift adaptation of national regulatory frameworks and subjecting the most prevalent, persistent and harmful new psychoactive substances to international control,

Noting that drug traffickers are exploiting the market to make available an increasing number of new psychoactive substances as alternatives to internationally controlled drugs for purposes of abuse,

Recognizing that new psychoactive substances can have effects similar to those of internationally controlled drugs and that there are still gaps in the knowledge of negative consequences and risks to public health and safety,

Underscoring the common challenge of reducing diversion of chemicals that are used in the production of both new psychoactive substances and amphetamine-type stimulants, including methamphetamine, and that an effective response requires

* The present revised draft resolution has not been formally edited.

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a balanced and an integrated approach, while also ensuring that the legitimate trade is not adversely affected,

Recognizing that illicit manufacture, trafficking, and consumption of amphetamine-type stimulants, including methamphetamine, continue to adversely affect regions of the world to different degrees,

Concerned that non-scheduled precursor chemicals are being used in the manufacture of illicit drugs and may be used in the manufacture of new psychoactive substances, and as substitutes for internationally scheduled precursor chemicals,

Recognizing also that a comprehensive global response to new psychoactive substances requires distinct but complementary approaches at the national, regional and international levels, including international scheduling of the most persistent, prevalent and harmful substances,

Recognizing that Member States face different challenges in reducing the supply of and demand for new psychoactive substances and amphetamine-type stimulants, while ensuring that the legitimate use of amphetamine-type stimulants, including methamphetamine, is not adversely affected,

Recognizing also the importance of having in place appropriate national legislative, regulatory and administrative policies that can respond to emerging new psychoactive substances in a timely and effective manner,

Recognizing the importance of applying national precursor controls and bilateral and multilateral cooperation with the goal of avoiding shifts in diversion patterns across borders,

Emphasizing the need to promote technical and financial assistance to countries, especially to developing countries, in effectively addressing the challenge of new psychoactive substances, including by providing equipment and training for detection and identification of new psychoactive substances,

Recalling also its resolutions 55/1 of 16 March 2012, 56/4 of 15 March 2013, 57/9 of 21 March 2014 and 58/11 of 17 March 2015, on enhancing international cooperation on new psychoactive substances, in particular relating to sharing information on supply reduction and demand reduction strategies, including emerging scientific evidence about effective treatment models, and by supporting the international drug scheduling system to meet the challenges posed by these substances,

Highlighting the important role of the International Narcotics Control Board in the ongoing success of the Project Ion Incident Communication System in improving understanding of the problem of new psychoactive substances, and the role of the global Synthetics Monitoring: Analysis, Reporting and Trends programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in the collection of information on new psychoactive substances,

Recognizing the value of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime *Early Warning Advisory on New Psychoactive Substances* and of the World Health Organization in supporting the development of an international response to the challenge of new psychoactive substances through the provision of scheduling

recommendations regarding new psychoactive substances to the Commission, as noted in its resolution 57/9,

Noting the efforts by the World Health Organization to regularly review new psychoactive substances for potential control under the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961[1] and the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971,[2]

Welcoming the International Narcotics Control Board in conducting relevant assessments of precursor chemicals under article 12 of the 1988 Convention, as necessary, and the role that the Precursor Incident Communication System plays in facilitating communication among competent authorities,

Taking note of the outcomes of the international conference on precursor chemicals and new psychoactive substances jointly convened by the International Narcotics Control Board and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in Bangkok from 21 to 24 April 2015,

Recognizing that voluntary industry cooperation is an effective measure to address the diversion of non-scheduled precursors, for their use in the illicit manufacture of drugs and new psychoactive substances,

Deeply concerned about the exploitation or misuse of the Internet and social media by drug traffickers in the sales and promotion of illicit drugs, new psychoactive substances, and precursors as well as the increasing use of communication technologies including the Internet, online payment systems and virtual currencies, for purchase of these substances and laundering the proceeds thereof,

Welcoming the placing of selected precursors and new psychoactive substances under international control, including the ten substances placed under control by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its fifty-eighth session, while recognizing that the international scheduling of priority substances could be complemented by enhanced domestic and international action to develop a balanced and integrated response,

1. *Encourages* Member States to develop effective, scientific evidence-based, balanced and integrated domestic programs for prevention, treatment and rehabilitation that are relevant to the problems associated with new psychoactive substances and amphetamine-type stimulants, including health and psycho-social aspects, and to share those models and evaluations of their effectiveness through appropriate bilateral and multilateral channels;

2. *Urges* continued focus, in the context of national legislation, on amphetamine-type stimulants, including methamphetamine, and the negative consequences these substances have on people, families, communities and societies, and the environmental damage caused by their illegal manufacture;

3. *Encourages* Member States to consider the central role of precursor chemicals in the illegal production of all synthetic drugs, especially new psychoactive substances and amphetamine-type stimulants, including methamphetamine;

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[1] Ibid., vol. 520, No. 7515.

[2] Ibid., vol. 1019, No. 14956.

4. *Urges* Member States to support research and analysis on patterns of use, public health harms, including evidence of acute toxicity and dependence resulting from use of new psychoactive substances, and amphetamine-type stimulants, forensic data and regulatory responses, and to share findings through bilateral, regional and multilateral channels;

5. *Also urges* Member States, as well as regional organizations, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the World Health Organization, the International Narcotics Control Board and other relevant organizations, to continue to collect data and share information, in line with their respective mandates, so as to build a collective global understanding of the movement and trafficking of precursor chemicals, amphetamine-type stimulants, including methamphetamine, and new psychoactive substances and better inform evidence-based policymaking and operational cooperation;

6. *Invites* Member States to respond swiftly and effectively to the emergence of new psychoactive substances, by considering a variety of controls, regulatory, legislative and administrative initiatives as part of a timely, effective, comprehensive, balanced and integrated domestic response, including legislation on controlled substance analogues, generic laws based on chemical structures of substances, full regulatory approaches, temporary, provisional or emergency control measures, rapid scheduling procedures, and other national legislative or regulatory approaches, including those relating to therapeutic drug products, consumer protection and hazardous substances;

7. *Calls upon* Member States to exchange information through bilateral and multilateral channels on legislative, regulatory, administrative, and law enforcement and border control responses, including those that address promotion, distribution and sales through the Internet, in order to effectively manage the challenge posed by new psychoactive substances and, where appropriate, amphetamine-type stimulants, including methamphetamine;

8. *Invites* the World Health Organization, with the support of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, relevant regional organizations and Member States, to continue conducting regular, efficient, transparent, timely reviews of the most harmful, prevalent and persistent new psychoactive substances, and to use the potential impact of toxicity at both a population and individual level as the primary factor in prioritising substances for review;

9. *Also invites* the World Health Organization, with the support of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, relevant regional organizations and Member States, to disseminate its surveillance list of substances of concern, to proactively collect evidence on these substances that supports future evidence-based reviews, and to issue voluntary public health alerts where there is sufficient evidence that a new psychoactive substance poses a risk to public safety;

10. *Invites* the International Narcotics Control Board, to systematically collect relevant information and to conduct assessments as necessary of non-scheduled precursor chemicals used in the manufacture of illicit drugs and new psychoactive substances with support from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, relevant regional organizations and Member States;

11. *Invites* the International Narcotics Control Board and its Project ION, in consultation with Member States, World Health Organization, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and relevant regional organizations to maintain and disseminate the newly created limited international special surveillance lists for new psychoactive substances for which sufficient information exists on their public health harms, prevalence and absence of currently recognized medical or industrial use in order to support border control, law enforcement, and regulatory efforts;

12. *Invites* all Governments to explore, where appropriate, the full potential of cooperation between competent and other relevant national authorities and concerned industry and trade of all sizes and at all levels in order to prevent diversion of internationally scheduled and non-scheduled precursor chemicals and the supply of new psychoactive substances to markets for illicit or harmful purposes;

13. *Encourages* Governments to make use of the International Narcotics Control Board's *Guidelines for a Voluntary Code of Practice for the Chemical Industry*,[3] as appropriate in accordance with national legislation, to develop voluntary mechanisms of cooperation, such as memorandums of understanding with all concerned industrial sectors and to incorporate the principles of such cooperation into the concept of corporate social responsibility;

14. *Encourages* all Member States to establish arrangements, whether voluntary, administrative or legislative, in accordance with national legislation, whereby their domestic operators involved in the trade of the substances included in the international special surveillance lists of non-scheduled precursor chemicals and new psychoactive substances, or any similar list maintained by Member States, will report suspicious orders of these chemicals and substances, where appropriate, and cooperate with relevant national enforcement, regulatory and control authorities with regard to those chemicals and substances;

15. *Invites* Member States to voluntarily inform, in accordance with national legislation, when they are made aware of suspicious shipments duly corroborated by relevant national authorities, of new psychoactive substances and non-scheduled precursors which are generally believed to be used in the illicit manufacture of drugs and new psychoactive substances, included in the international surveillance lists, the authorities of transit and destination countries, so that those authorities may take action as appropriate on incoming shipments;

16. *Reminds* Member States, subject to their constitutional principles and legal systems, to take civil, criminal or administrative action against unlawful actions by suppliers of and traders in controlled substances;

17. *Encourages* Governments, in accordance with their national legislation, to make full use of existing tools, including those provided by the International Narcotics Control Board, in particular Pre-Export Notification Online, the Precursors Incident Communication System, the Project Ion Incident Communication System, and the mechanisms and operations under Project Prism, Project Cohesion and Project Ion for the exchange of information and common investigations, in order to address the sourcing of, movement of, and trafficking in non-scheduled precursors and new psychoactive substances;

[3] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.09.XI.17.

18. *Invites* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to consider providing technical assistance to Member States, in particular to developing countries, upon their request, to develop timely and effective legislative, regulatory, administrative, and operational responses to emerging new psychoactive substances;

19. *Invites also* Member States to promote technical and financial assistance, especially to developing countries, upon request, in effectively addressing the challenge of new psychoactive substances, including by providing equipment and training for detection and identification of new psychoactive substances;

20. *Urges* Member States, in consultation with the International Narcotics Control Board, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and other relevant regional and international organizations, to provide support for the training of experts and officials in various aspects of regulatory controls, with particular emphasis on monitoring and control of substances, and effective voluntary cooperation with relevant industries, bearing in mind that such training may often be best delivered on a regional basis;

21. *Invites* Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for these purposes, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations.